

**ALKHAM PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Annual Meeting of the Parish**  
**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2022 at 7.00 pm**

**Minutes**

Alkham Parish Councillor and Chairman Neil Burrows  
7 members of the public  
Also present : Irene Bowie Clerk Alkham Parish Council

**1. Apologies:**

Apologies were received. There were none

**Parish Council Annual Report:**

**2. Presented by Chairman of the Parish Council Neil Burrows**

During the past year as Covid restrictions were lifted Alkham Parish Council have been able to resume face to face meetings.

Our main focus has been regarding traffic calming throughout the valley. The council has submitted a highways improvement plan for the parish to Kent Highways, and this is an ongoing live document.

We are allowed to submit 2 priorities per year. Project managers will then investigate our top 1 or 2.

Careful consideration needs to be given to our priorities as only realistic achievable schemes, agreeable to KCC, can be put forward for consideration. In most cases match funding will be requested from the parish.

Speedwatch has continued to operate providing valuable data which alongside Kent Police data helps the Parish Council in its ongoing discussions with KCC.

The Parish Plan is still with the working group Chaired by Den Barnard. The council looks forward to moving forward with this in the near future.

The Parish Council currently has 2 vacancies,. If anyone knows someone who may be interested then please refer them to our Clerk, Irene.

Finally, I would like to express my thanks to my fellow councillors who freely give up their own time for Alkham parish and to our Clerk Irene for keeping our affairs in order.

Neil Burrows – Chairman Alkham Parish Council May 2022

**3. Parish Council Annual Financial Report:**

Presented by the Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer  
The Parish Council Statement of Accounts for year ended 31.3.22

Annual gross income for the Parish Council was £ 25,152. This was comprised of the precept £13,138 and grants totaling £12,014, which is an increase of £11,380 over the previous year.

Expenditure was £ 24,587 which was an increase of £ 10,711. This was due to the cost of the new bus shelter but was offset by the KCC Members grant.

The total net bank balance as of 31st March 2022 was £49,662 which was an increase of £284

Careful management and budgeting ensure that the PC is controlling expenditure and is applying for grants when ever possible.

**4. Kent County Council Report: : No report**

**5. Dover District Councillor – Alkham Parish Council Annual Summary Report May 2022**

Since being elected back in July of last year the pandemic has impacted on all our personal and working lives in so many ways.

Working from home, and only being able to meet and discuss council business via remote Teams has been challenging and has meant that business has not been conducted as fully or effectively as possible. Thanks goodness, we now find ourselves being able to move and work outside the imposed restrictions and are more able to move forward and engage with our communities more positively. Over the last few months my primary focus has been engaging with ward parish councils to act as their champion helping towards creating better communication between themselves, their communities, and residents to get the collective voices heard towards getting things done at the right levels within Dover District Council. I have been working hard to help remove the feeling of distrust and disconnect I found when taking up my post as ward councillor. That work is beginning to deliver positive results, benefitting our local communities, and building developed trust and a better understanding of local issues that are important to you.

Much has already been done, but it is still work in progress! And I believe that even more can be achieved if we work collaboratively together to help build and develop stronger ward Parish Councils, whose prime role will be to fully understand the needs and views of their communities – and help deliver them. My job will be to support and encourage those aims.

Over the last year, Alkham Parish Council has found it challenging trying to deliver their best for the community hampered by a lack of full council membership, this despite their best efforts to encourage all sections of their community to play an active part in the democratic process. Parish Councillors play a vital role as they represent the interests of the local community, but without them being fully supported and able to listen and engage with their community, the community needs and aspirations cannot be heard or fully delivered.

Parish councils need active, interested, and committed people to serve and get involved with community work and local issues. One of my ward councillor tasks is to help contribute to open government and encourage all sections of the community to participate in the democratic process. I am committed to support and help Alkham Parish Council in their endeavours to achieve and expand on their important local government role.

Post pandemic recovery, and the current world circumstances will have an impact on all of use during the coming year. My job will remain the same – to ensure that Alkham, and the interest of my ward communities are fully represented and I will continue to work hard to get things done on your behalf.

Cllr Martin Hibbert

Alkham & Capel le Ferne Ward

06/05/2022

**6. Questions from the public:**

Questions regarding progress of the parish plan, speeding traffic through the Village, Public Rights of way and the Dover Local Plan were discussed.

The meeting closed at 7:34 pm.

Signed :

Date: